STARTFORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

for the Year ended 31st December, 1959

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

F. W. GAVIN, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Univ. Edin.)

TO THE CHAIRMAN, LADIES & GENTLEMEN
OF THE STARTFORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year ended 31st December, 1959.

The mid-year population was 4,190, as estimated by the Registrar General, a decrease of 1.050 on that for the year 1958. I can only conclude that this discrepancy is accounted for by a temporary reduction in Military Personnel about June, 1959, when Deerbolt Camp was closed, and when the Registrar's calculations were made.

The total number of births was 68, i.e. 11 fewer than in the previous year; there was one infantile death under one week of age, but no maternal deaths during the year under review.

Deaths totalled 40, (53 in 1958), giving a death rate of 9.55, which is lower than that for England and Wales at 11.6.

Principal causes of death were - 14 heart diseases, (16 in 1958), 10 from cancer, (12 in 1958), 9 from vascular diseases of the nervous system, (10 in 1958), one from respiratory tuberculosis and one death from pneumonia, 4 from other circulatory diseases were recorded.

Forty-four cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year, compared with 23 in 1958. The increase is accounted for by a measles epidemic which occurred mainly in January and was part of a widespread epidemic in England and Wales at that time.

There were 6 cases of whooping cough, 5 in pre-school age children in Married Families Quarters at Startforth Park and one school child, a boy aged 12 years at Hutton Magna. Whooping cough is tending to decline in incidence as artificial immunization (preferably undertaken in early infancy, i.e. three months old child) produce immunity between 80% and 90% against this disease.

Five cases of scarlet fever were notified in 1959, three at Bowes, one each at Cotherstone and Startforth, during the months of January and February; the affected school children all attended different schools and there was thus no school spread of this disease, which is now generally mild and uncomplicated.

There were two notifications of acute primary pneumonia in February and March, and one case of erysipelas in December.

There were no notifications of tuberculosis in the District during the year.

It is also pleasing to record once again no notifications of poliomyelitis occurring in the District, and artificial immunization against this disease was carried out by visits to the various schools in the area and there is now no shortage of vaccine.

Sewerage and Sewage disposal, Housing and Water Supply

These matters are dealt with by the Public Health Inspector in his report, and which follows.

F. W. GAVIN,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

F. W. Gavin, M.D., M.B., Ch. B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector :

C. D. Hunter, D.P.A., M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.I.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the District in acres	97,630
Resident Population, mid-year estimate ..	4,190
Number of inhabited houses	1,427
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1959	£74,863
Sum represented by penny rate	£310.0.0d.
Rate in £ levied at 1st April, 1959	8/6d.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The number of live births registered during the year was 68, as against 79 in 1958. The birth rate comparisons show that the

rate for the District is higher than for the rest of England and Wales.

Birth Rate Comparisons

Live Births per 1,000 population
Still Births per 1,000 total live and stillbirths as adjusted by Comparability Factor.

	Live Births	Stillbirths
Startforth Rural District 1958	19.00	12.50
Startforth Rural District 1959	17.37	14.49
England and Wales 1959	16.50	20.70

Analysis of Births

Live Births :-

	1958		1959	
	M	F	M	F
Legitimate	33	44	41	23
Illegitimate	-	2	3	1
Totals	33	46	44	24

Still Births :-

	1958		1959	
	M	F	M	F
Legitimate	1	-	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	-	-	1

Deaths

Maternal Mortality No maternal death were registered in the District during the year as in 1958 and 1957.

Infantile Mortality One child under one year died in the District during 1959, as against none in 1958.

Infantile Mortality Comparisons per 1,000 live births

Startforth Rural District 1958	00.00
Startforth Rural District 1959	14.70
England and Wales 1959	22.00

Deaths from All Causes During 1959 there were 40 deaths from all causes registered in the District, as against 53 in 1958. The death rate being lower than that for England and Wales.

Death Rate Comparisons

Death Rate per 1,000 population

Startforth Rural District, 1958	11.73
Startforth Rural District, 1959	9.55
England and Wales, 1959..	11.60

Causes of all Deaths - Compared with 1958

	1959		1958	
	M	F	M	F
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	-	1	-	-
" Other	-	-	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	2	-	4
" " Lung, bronchus ..	-	-	2	-
" " Breast	-	2	-	1
" " Uterus	-	-	-	-
Other malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasm	1	4	1	4
Leukemia	-	1	-	-
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ..	5	4	4	6
Coronary Diseases, Angina	5	2	4	5
Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	-	1	-
Other Heart Diseases	2	5	4	2
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	2	-	1
Pneumonia	-	2	-	-
Bronchitis	-	-	3	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	-	-	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-	1	1
All Other Accidents	-	-	2	-
Totals	16	24	23	30

Number of Deaths from the Seven Chief Causes
Rates and Comparisons with Previous Year

	per 1,000 population 1959		1958	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Cancer	10	2.39	12	2.29
Respiratory (non -Tuberculosis) ..	1	.24	4	.76
Heart Diseases..	14	3.34	16	3.05
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	1	.24	-	-
Tuberculosis - Non-Pulmonary	-	-	1	.19
Other Circulatory Diseases	4	.95	1	.19
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	9	2.15	10.	1.91
Totals	39	9.31	44	8.39

Infectious Diseases There were 44 cases of notifiable and/or infectious dieases reported during 1959, as against 23 in 1958.

Analysis of Infectious Diseases and
Comparisons with Previous Year's

	1959 No. of Cases	1958 No. of Cases
Scarlet Fever	5	9
Acute Pneumonia	2	3
Influenza	-	1
Erysipelas	1	-
Sonne Dysentery	-	8
Puerperal Pyrxia	-	1
Whooping Cough	6	1
Measles	30	-
Totals	44	23

Tuberculosis

No new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year.

Deaths from Tuberculosis One death from this disease was registered in the District in 1959; there were no deaths from this cause in 1958 and 1957.

Vaccinations and Immunisations

The following vaccinations and immunisations were carried out in 1959 and compared with those done in the previous year.

	1959		1958	
	0 - 5 yrs.	Over 5	0 - 5 yrs.	Over 5
Successful Vaccinations	41	26	35	16
Completed Course of Immunisation	76	14	27	11

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis At the end of December, 1959 570 children in the District had received three injections against poliomyelitis.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT, 1946

Section 22. Care of Mothers and Young Children.
Section 23. Domiciliary Midwifery.
Section 24. Health Visiting.
Section 25. Home Nursing.

Three District Nurse/Midwives employed by the North Riding County Council carry out the duties required by the above sections. There is one Infant Welfare Centre in the District - at Barningham, which is under the jurisdiction of the County Council and is attended by the District Medical Officer and the District Nurse/Midwife for that area; full advantage being taken of the facilities offered.

The following number of visits paid to the patients in the District by the Nurse/Midwife during 1959 under the respective categories are compared with those for 1958 :-

Category	1959	1958
Domiciliary Midwifery	1116	1102
Home Nursing	2330	1383
Health Visiting	2097	1256

Section 27 - Ambulance Service This service is provided by the North Riding County Council from the Ambulance Station which has a staff of one Driver/Foreman, one Shift Leader and five Driver/attendants, and with the assistance of the Hospital Car

Section 28 - Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care The work of vaccination and immunisation, together with the advice spread by those working in the Public Health Service, Inspectors, Midwives, Maternity and Child Welfare Officers, Doctors and Nurses, must all have a beneficial effect on the general health of the community.

Section 29 - Domestic Help Service. This is a service provided by the North Riding County Council and during 1959 ten cases received help, as compared with six in 1958, the analysis and comparison with 1958 being :-

Category	Cases		Hours	
	1959	1958	1959	1958
Domiciliary Confinement..	1	2	40	562
Chronic Sick	7	4	1647	2015
Sick Housewife	2	-	538	-
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-
Totals	10	6	2225	2577

Section 51 - Mental Health No Committee in the area and no cases arose in 1959, as in the previous four years.

Dental Services This service is provided by arrangement, with the North Riding County Council.

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47. No cases in 1959

-oOo-

The Public Health work of the District has been carried out as usual by Mr. C. D. Hunter, the Public Health Inspector and I now thank him for his kind co-operation at all times and for the completion of this Report.

Nuisance Inspection

Total Number of Inspections for Nuisances only	132
Total Number of Nuisances found	35
Number of Statutory Notices served	-
Number of Informal Notices served	35

Public Cleansing

During the year a Scavenging Service operated throughout the area and only a small number of the remote out-lying premises were not served. From the greater part of the area refuse is collected weekly, although in a few places a fortnightly service meets the requirements, whilst at the Military Establishment in Startforth a twice weekly collection is made.

All refuse is conveyed to one refuse tip which is situated in the parish of Mickleton where a semi-controlled system is operated and Ministry of Health Recommendations followed so far as is possible. Two Karrier refuse vehicles and five men are employed on the service and the total annual cost is £3,002.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

	No. of Register.	No. of Inspections
Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are enforced by Local Authority	12	17
Factories not included above in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	8	8
Other Premises in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	17	52.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Twenty shops are registered, most of which are general stores. Nine of these are licenced to store ice-cream for sale.

Five privately owned slaughterhouses are registered and 273 visits of inspection were made during the year. The following table shows the details of the carcases inspected during the year.

The meat slaughtered was of a uniformly high standard of quality and the amount condemned a very small percentage of the whole.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	412	-	276	1714	213	-
Number Inspected	412	-	276	1714	213	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	35	-	-	47	4	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	8.320	-	-	0.991	1,877	-
Tuberculosis Only. Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.243	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and Totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Moveable Dwellings.

There is one licenced caravan site in the area. During the year this site, which was licenced for a maximum of 175 caravans, was maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The Council owns modern treatment works at Cotherstone and Mickleton, both of which villages are provided with satisfactory systems of sewers. The sewage disposal works at Barningham, Bowes, Romaldkirk and Startforth are inadequate and largely obsolete and the villages of Boldron, Holwick, Hutton Magna, Lartington and Ovington have no sewers or disposal works.

The anticipated commencement of the schemes for the improvement of the sewage works at Romaldkirk and for the sewering of Startforth has been unfortunately delayed and a start was not possible in 1959. In the case of Romaldkirk, however, it is anticipated that the work will be completely carried out during the summer of 1960, and it is expected that site difficulties connected with the Startforth scheme will be resolved and the scheme ready to start well before the end of 1960. Preliminary details are also being prepared for the next two schemes on the Council's Programme, i.e. Barningham and Bowes, and work will start on these as soon as possible.

Water Supply.

The parishes of Mickleton, Cotherstone, Romaldkirk, Lartington, Barforth and Ovington are supplied by the Tees Valley Water Board and the parish of Startforth by the Urban District Council of Barnard Castle. The Council operates undertakings in the parishes of Barningham, Boldron, Bowes, Holwick and Hutton Magna.

Preliminary discussions have commenced in connection with the regrouping of water undertakings with a view to the Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board becoming the water authority for the whole of the district. It is anticipated that this regrouping will take place not later than the 1st April, 1962.

Further progress has been made with the schemes for the supply of water to (a) Hunderthwaite and (b) Bowes, etc. and it is anticipated that the actual construction work for both schemes will start in 1960. The former should be completed by the Autumn of 1960 and it is probable that the latter scheme will be put into operation mid-1961. Further discussions have taken place with the Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board in connection with

the supply of water to certain properties in the parishes of Egglestone Abbey, Rokeby, Thorpe, Wycliffe and Hutton Magna and it is hoped that the necessary schemes will be carried out as soon as possible.

During the year thirty-two samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination; of these seventeen were satisfactory and fifteen unsatisfactory. The latter figure includes eight samples from small privately owned supplies to isolated properties. Where an unsatisfactory report was received for a sample from a public supply an immediate investigation into the cause was made and remedial measures taken.

Housing.

The Council owns eighty-six Council houses, six of which were erected in the inter-war years. They also own four bungalows which were converted from the former Infectious Diseases Isolation Hospital with assistance under the Housing Act, 1949, and six Old Peoples' Bungalows. It is hoped to erect further old peoples' bungalows in the near future.

Applications from property owners for discretionery improvement grants are being received and are considered on their merits. During the year seven grants were made.

During the year applications have also been received for standard improvement grants and three grants were made. It would seem probable that the introduction of this simplified form of grant will result in a considerably greater number of applications for assistance being received.